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THE STREET OF TO-DAY. By JOHN MASEFIELD. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1911.

John Masefield has rendered good service as a dramatist. His novel is more a promise than an achievement; it is notably less mature than the lurid and awful *Tragedy of Nan*. Like most young novelists, Mr. Masefield relies too much upon epigram, seraps of keen observation, sudden flashes of insight. His narrative power is still somewhat halting, and the characterization is occasionally feeble. Certain notes are reiterated until they remind us of the song "Ein Ton"; such, for example, as Lionel's feeling for the exquisite fineness and delicacy of women. The epigrams are mostly good. For example, "Success is the brand on the brow for aiming low," "Marriage is as much a refuge as an escape." Perhaps the best word in all the book is the last: "Perfect life, or that which we on earth call God, is no thunderous thing clothed in the lightning, but something lovely and unshaken in the mind, in the minds about us, that burns like a star for us to march by through all the night of the soul."

DENRY THE AUDACIOUS. By ARNOLD BENNETT. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1911.

Really, Mr. Bennett should know better! After *Old Wives' Tales* he gave us *The Glimpse*, which was quite evidently a slight, young book rewritten and much patched. Now after *Clayhanger* he presents us with the less pardonable *Denry the Audacious*. *Denry the Audacious* is amusing, but it is likewise unpleasant. We do not respect ourselves for being amused at the career of a person who begins his success by forging a number on his school report. On this action Mr. Bennett comments: "Every school-boy is dishonest by the adult standard. If I knew an honest schoolboy, I should begin to count my silver spoons when he grew up. All is fair between schoolboys and schoolmasters."

After this opening one is prepared for the farcical and rather vulgar continuation of Denry's successes. The book has the merit of carrying us back to Bursley, one of the five towns with which Mr. Bennett has made us so familiar. We have witnessed sordid tragedies in this town, and in *Denry the Audacious* we witness one of its sordid farces.

But with all due respect to Mr. Bennett's best achievements, we do not quite forgive him this vulgar jest.

BROTHER COPAS. By Sir ARTHUR QUILLER-COUCH. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1911.

To those who are acquainted with the literary standing of "Q" the lightness and slightness of his novels always come as a surprise. They have, however, a distinctive touch of learning here and there and a fair and elegant style. The setting in the present case is easily identified as the Hospital of St. Cross at Winchester, although Sir Quiller-Couch confusingly calls his town Mercheater suggesting Melchester, the name given by Mr. Hardy to the cathedral town of Salisbury.

The dissensions and difficulties in this community of noble poverty, the great unsettled question of high church or low church, and the final solution by means of that charity which covers a multitude of sins is the theme of